REMARKS

Applicant has considered all points made by the Examiner in the Office Action and has responded to same in order to ensure compliance with the applicable rules.

Claim 10 has been previously cancelled.

Claims 1 – 9 and 11 – 24 are pending.

Each pending claim stands rejected under 35 U.S. C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Woodland (U.S. Patent No. 6,056,237) in view of Young et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,626,399). Young is not proper prior art for the instant application.

The effective filing date of a U.S. patent application is the earliest filing date to which it is entitled. 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 120, and 121. Young, U.S. Patent No. 6626399, has an effective filing date of December 26, 2001. The instant application has an effective filing date of July 13, 2001; over five months prior to the Young reference.

Because the effective filing date of Young is five month after the effective filing date of the instant application, Young is not available as a prior art reference.

Applicant requests reconsideration of all pending claims in light of Young's unavailability as prior art.

The applicant requests a telephone call if there are any problems associated with this Response, as this Response is believed to put the case in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
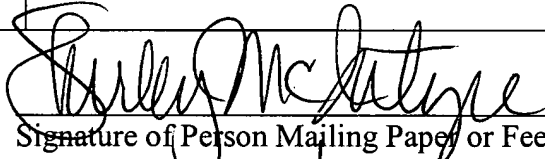JACKSON WALKER L.L.P.

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on the date shown below with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to the "Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450", as follows:

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